

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4484.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4484, which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Washington Street in Rockville, Maryland as the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Post Office Building. It is with great pride that we in the Maryland Congressional Delegation honor a man for whom our entire Nation is eternally grateful.

During his life, Mr. Alvarez has faithfully served as a distinguished military officer and public servant. In 1960, after earning a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Santa Clara and becoming the first in his family to go to college, Mr. Alvarez joined the United States Navy.

After serving in the Navy for 20 years, he retired from his position with program management at the Naval Air Systems Command in Washington, D.C. and accepted an appointment as deputy director of the Peace Corps.

In 1982, President Reagan nominated him, and the Senate confirmed his appointment, as the deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration. After leaving the position of deputy administrator of the VA, Mr. Alvarez joined the Hospital Corporation of America before forming his own consulting company, Conwal, Incorporated.

A dedicated civil servant, Mr. Alvarez is best known to the public as the first American aviator shot down over North Vietnam. In 1964, then LTJG Everett Alvarez, an A-4 Skyhawk pilot, was assigned to Attack Squadron 144 on board the U.S.S. *Constellation*. On August 5, he was shot down and captured on the first raid in North Vietnam.

Commander Alvarez was reported as captured at about 4 p.m. Hanoi time at Hon Gai Bay in the Gulf of Tonkin. He was kept in the local jail cell in Hon Gai with two Vietnamese prisoners for 2 days, then moved to a nearby farm until August 12. On the 12th, he was taken in Hanoi and placed into room 24 in the infamous Hanoi Hilton where he lived until March of 1965, at which time other American prisoners started to arrive.

Commander Alvarez earned the dubious distinction of not only being the first naval aviator captured by the North Vietnamese, but also the longest confirmed prisoner of war in North Vietnam. On February 12, 1973, Commander Alvarez was finally released after 8½ years of imprisonment.

For his courageous service, Everett Alvarez holds numerous military decorations. He has been honored with the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, with combat "V," two Bronze Stars, with combat "V," the Distinguished Flying Cross, and two Purple Heart medals.

In addition, a city park and two housing projects in California and Texas have been named in honor of Mr. Alvarez. In 1987, his hometown of Salinas, California, named a new high school in his honor. In March of 1998, he was awarded with the Daughters of the American Revolution's Medal of Honor.

Today, we have the opportunity to honor him in Rockville, Maryland, where Mr. Alvarez, his wife Thomasine, and his two sons, Mark and Bryan, currently reside. Unfortunately the Alvarez family was not able to be in the gallery this afternoon because Mr. Alvarez continues to serve America and America's future with his position on the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences and is currently at their annual board meeting in Colorado.

Commander Alvarez's life stands as a testament to patriotism, to courage, and to perseverance. He, like any of our Nation's veterans, deserves our highest praise for risking his life defending this great Nation.

In the historical publication, *We Came Home*, Commander Alvarez reflects on his prisoner-of-war experience with this statement:

"For years and years, during our long incarceration, we dreamed of the day when we would come home to our families and friends. We never gave up hope that this day might come soon, because we had faith—faith in God, in our country, and in ourselves. It was this faith that maintained that someday our dreams would come true. No one can be prouder than I am for having had the association of some of the bravest men this country has ever seen—my fellow prisoners who were held in North Vietnamese jails."

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege for me to sponsor this legislation endorsed by all of the Maryland delegation to honor one of America's great heroes, Everett Alvarez, Jr.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4484, which names a post office after Everett Alvarez, was introduced by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), my good friend and colleague, on May 17, 2000.

Everett Alvarez was born in Salinas, California, in 1937. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master's degree in Operations Research and Systems Analysis, and a Juris Doctorate.

After earning his bachelor's degree in 1960, he joined the United States Navy and was an officer. He was taken pris-

oner of war in August of 1964 and held captive in North Vietnam for 8½ years until the general release of prisoners in February of 1973.

He served in program management at the Naval Air Systems Command in Washington, D.C. until his retirement in 1980. In 1981, he accepted an appointment as deputy director of the Peace Corps. President Reagan nominated him, and he was confirmed by the Senate, to be deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration in 1982.

Mr. Alvarez is a recipient of numerous military declarations and civilian awards and serves on several boards of directors. The fact is that he is a military man and he has given so much to his country, and someone once said freedom is not free. The fact is that Mr. Alvarez took time out of his life to sacrifice so that we could all be free and enjoy the wonderful life that we enjoy in this country and around the world.

Madam Speaker, I urge the adoption of H.R. 4484. I thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) for recognizing this great Marylander.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to acknowledge and demonstrate my appreciation to the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), and the ranking member; as well as the chairman of the subcommittee before whom this bill came, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and his ranking member, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

I want to also thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for his sponsorship of this bill. It is interesting that we have the two Marylanders managing the time for a bill to name a post office for a national hero that will be in Maryland. So I urge support of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4484.

The question was taken.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madame Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

JAMES W. MCCABE, SR. POST
OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MORELLA. Madame Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 2302) to designate the building of the United States Postal Service located at 307 Main Street in Johnson City, New York, as the "James W. McCabe, Sr. Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2302

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The building of the United States Postal Service located at 307 Main Street in Johnson City, New York, shall be known and designated as the "James W. McCabe, Sr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "James W. McCabe, Sr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Madame Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2302.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, our colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) introduced H.R. 2302 on June 22, 1999. Pursuant to the policy of the Committee on Government Reform, each House Member of the State delegation of New York has cosponsored the legislation.

H.R. 2302 designates the building of the United States Postal Service at 307 Main Street in Johnson City, New York, as the James W. McCabe, Sr. Post Office Building.

James W. McCabe was born in Johnson City, New York, in 1917. He attended elementary school in Johnson City and high school at Holy Cross Seminary in Notre Dame, Indiana. He graduated cum laude from the University of Notre Dame where he majored in Latin and had minors in English and philosophy. He then attended SUNY-Albany to complete teaching requirements, and he also received a master's degree in education. He did further graduate studies at Syracuse University, Colgate University and Ithaca College.

Mr. McCabe served with the Army Air Corps from 1943 through 1945. He was stationed in the South Pacific with a B-24 bomber crew. He was awarded the Air Medal with an oak leaf cluster and was honorably discharged with the rank of technical sergeant.

After military service, Mr. McCabe taught Latin and English at Johnson

City High School. James McCabe served as mayor of Johnson City from 1963 to 1971, and on the executive committee of the New York Conference of Mayors in 1970 to 1971. He was elected to represent his constituents as an assemblyman from January 1973 to 1985.

For his efforts on behalf of the mentally disabled, the Mayor of New York, on behalf of the City of New York and the Advisory Board of the New York City Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services, presented Mr. McCabe the Human Service Award in 1977. Also in 1977, he received the Legislator of the Year Award from the New York State Personnel and Guidance Association for his work in mental health.

In 1981 and 1982, Mr. McCabe was named Legislator of the Year by the New York State Association of Counties and the Friend of Education Award.

After his service in the State assembly, Mr. McCabe served on the New York State Board of Regents for 5 years.

Mr. McCabe died in Johnson City on May 23, 1999. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Margaret Flynn McCabe.

Madam Speaker, this bill honors an individual who devoted his life to public service. It is most appropriate to honor James W. McCabe, Sr., by naming a United States Post Office in Johnson City, New York, where Mr. McCabe was born, served his community and died; and I urge all Members to support H.R. 2302 honoring James W. McCabe, Sr.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY), the author of the legislation.

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I rise and ask the House to support us in designating the building of the United States Postal Service, which is located at 307 Main Street in Johnson City, New York, as the James W. McCabe, Sr. Post Office Building.

In doing so, I want to express my appreciation to my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), and others who are supporting us in this endeavor. I thank them very much.

Jim McCabe, Sr. served a total of 17 years in New York State government. As a former Mayor of Johnson City and a member of the New York State legislature, Jim served his community and he served his entire State with great distinction.

Many members of the New York congressional delegation served with Jim during his six terms in the assembly and remember him for his dedication, for his kindness, and, most of all, I think, for his great strong sense of integrity. His leadership was always based upon his conscience, not on the polls and not on party. His intelligent leadership earned him the friendship

and respect of all those who were privileged to serve with him.

Jim McCabe died in 1999, and naming the Johnson City Post Office after him would permanently honor his memory in the community that he served so well. This tribute is particularly appropriate since Jim's father served as the postmaster in Johnson City.

Jim McCabe was born in Johnson City, New York, on April 17, 1917. He graduated cum laude from the University of Notre Dame. He then attended the State University of New York at Albany for a semester to complete his teaching requirements, and later received a master's degree in education. He did further graduate study at Syracuse University, at Colgate University, and also Ithaca College.

He was a devoted family man and was married for 56 years to his wife Margaret, and together they had seven children.

Jim served with the Army Air Corps from 1943 through 1945. He was a World War II veteran. He was stationed in the South Pacific with a B-24 bomber crew. And for his service there, he was awarded the Air Medal with an oak leaf cluster.

Jim taught Latin and English at Johnson City High School when he was discharged from the service from 1946 to 1973. He also served as a counselor at that school.

From 1963 to 1971, Jim was the Mayor of Johnson City. As mayor, Jim was a strong proponent of the construction of New York Route 17, soon to be redesignated as part of the interstate highway system, Interstate 86. The construction of that Route 17 brought economic development to the area. At a time when the region was dumping raw sewage into the Susquehanna River, Jim helped establish the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewer Treatment Plant, which still serves the people of Broome County. And it was his foresight and leadership on this important environmental issue that made that possible.

From 1970 to 1971, he served as a member of the Executive Committee of the New York State Conference of Mayors. Jim McCabe also served six terms in the New York State assembly. That service was from 1973 until 1982. During that time, he was chairman of the Assembly Committee on Local Government and also chair of the Legislative Commission on State and Local Relations.

As a member of the State Assembly's Committee on Mental Health, Education and on the Rules Committee and its Task Force on the Disabled, Jim was a passionate advocate on behalf of the mentally disabled, and he became known all across New York State for that service. In fact, for his efforts, Jim received the Human Service Award in 1977. The award was presented by then New York City Mayor Abraham Beame on behalf of New York City and the Advisory Board of the New York City Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services.

In the same year, Jim McCabe received the Legislator of the Year Award from the New York State Personnel and Guidance Association, additionally for his work in mental health. Jim was named Legislator of the Year in 1981 and 1982 by the New York State Association of Counties. He also received the Friends of Education Award in 1982 from the New York Education Association.

After his service in the State Assembly, and in a way as a capstone of his entire service in both State and local government, Jim served for 5 years on the New York State Board of Regents. The New York State Board of Regents, of course, is the board which oversees the entire educational system within New York. It was a very appropriate way for Jim McCabe to end his public service, in the sense that throughout his years, in local government and in the State legislature, and wherever he worked, with young people and old everywhere, his educational skills served him in good stead.

Jim, first and foremost, was an educator. And everyone with whom he came in contact benefitted from his skills, from his experience, from his wide breadth of service both here at home and abroad. It is, Mr. Speaker, with a great sense of pride that I offer this legislation to the Congress of the United States to name the Post Office Building in Johnson City as the James W. McCabe, Sr. Post Office.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to congratulate the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) for introducing this bill for someone who certainly deserves the recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also applaud the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) for this bill and for introducing it. I think he has said it quite eloquently as to why we are honoring this wonderful gentleman, James W. McCabe, in naming a post office after him.

The fact is, as I have said about some of our other honorees earlier today, they have come upon the Earth, they have seen it, they saw they could make a difference and made that difference.

With that, I would associate myself with the statement that the gentleman from New York just made and would urge our colleagues to vote in favor of this very important legislation based upon that.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) also for all her assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and I again urge this House to unanimously pass H.R. 2302, the legislation naming the James W. McCabe Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUYKENDALL). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2302.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JUDGE ROBERT BERNARD WATTS, SR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4448) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3500 Dolfield Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "Judge Robert Bernard Watts, Sr. Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4448

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JUDGE ROBERT BERNARD WATTS, SR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3500 Dolfield Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, shall be known and designated as the "Judge Robert Bernard Watts, Sr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Judge Robert Bernard Watts, Sr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4448.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to bring before the House H.R. 4448, legislation that was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS). This bill was introduced on May 15 of this year and is supported by all Members of the House delegation from the State of Maryland, and I am honored to be a cosponsor.

□ 1600

This legislation designates the United States Post Office located at 3500 Dolfield Avenue in Baltimore,

Maryland, as the "Judge Robert Bernard Watts, Sr. Post Office."

Judge Watts graduated with honors from Morgan State College in 1943. He joined the Army and served until 1945. After this service, he earned a law degree from the University of Maryland in 1948.

Judge Watts was deeply involved with the civil rights movement and worked closely with the NAACP. He was instrumental in desegregating numerous theaters, restaurants, department stores, hotels, and the Gwynn Oak Amusement Park. Judge Robert Bernard Watts was the first African American to be appointed full time to the bench of the Municipal Court of Baltimore City and was the first judge in Maryland to open hundreds of adoption records.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 4448 in honor of a gentleman, a gentleman who has made a difference in the lives of his community and his State.

I also want to congratulate the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for taking time to introduce this bill and for bringing the good works of Judge Watts to the attention of our colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH), and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Postal Service, for their support in bringing this bill to the floor.

I believe that persons who have made meaningful contributions to society should be recognized. The naming of a postal building in one's honor is truly a salute to the accomplishments and public service of an individual.

H.R. 4448 designates the United States Postal Building located at 3500 Dolfield Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, as the "Judge Robert Bernard Watts, Sr. Post Office Building."

I am pleased to be able to speak today about Judge Robert Bernard Watts, Sr. Judge Watts was born in west Baltimore, was at the center of the civil rights movement in the State of Maryland. He began his civil rights work as chairman of the NAACP Youth Chapter at Morgan State University. His chapter, with 200 members, was the largest in the country at that time. Because of his outstanding work, the NAACP sent him to his first national convention in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1942, where he met the late Justice Thurgood Marshall with whom he worked for 15 years on various civil rights cases.

He was the first African American to be appointed full time to the bench of the Municipal Court of Baltimore City. He then served in the Army until 1945. He earned a law degree from the University of Maryland, my alma mater,